



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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COUNCIL APPOINTS CARRIER TO HEAD OFFICE OF ZONING & ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

The Council today appointed Françoise M. Carrier as director of the Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings. She will succeed the office's long-time director, Phil Tierney, who retired last year.

Ms. Carrier is currently a senior counsel with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld. Her previous law firm, Cutler & Stanfield, merged into Akin, Gump in November 2000. Her practice consists chiefly of advising public entities on issues related to zoning, development, and environmental review of public projects.

After graduating from Rutgers University and Stanford Law School, Ms. Carrier served as a law clerk for Federal District Judge Robert R. Merhige, Jr. in Richmond. She also was an associate with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Steptoe & Johnson.

The mission of the Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings is to provide a hearing process for land use, employment discrimination, and other quasi-judicial proceedings that protects the due process rights of participants as well as the public interest.

"The Council believes that Ms. Carrier brings great strengths to this important position," said Council President Blair Ewing. "Her legal training and skills are first-rate. Her conceptual grasp of land use issues and her experience with them are excellent," he said.

Ms. Carrier will join the office on September 10. She will work three-quarters time at an annual full-time salary rate of \$106,667. Her initial appointment is for the remainder of the term of the current Council.

Ms. Carrier, her husband, and their two children are residents of Rockville.

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